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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to designate October, 2001 as "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month".

WHEREAS, each year over 1 million pregnancies in this country end in miscarriage, stillbirth and infant death, affecting families of all races, religions, and income levels; and

WHEREAS, equally as devastating is the number of couples who are struggling with infertility, having spent many months or years, tens of thousands of dollars, and significant emotional energy trying to have a baby; and

WHEREAS, for couples struggling with both infertility and pregnancy loss, the mourning process for pregnancy losses is often complicated and delayed. A pregnancy, when finally achieved, is not only precious, it is often irreplaceable. Because infertile couples cannot count on being able to have a successful pregnancy in the future, their focus is more on resolving their infertility than on grieving their pregnancy losses; in fact, grieving these losses is commonly postponed until after the couple either adopts a baby, is successful in giving birth, or decides to stop trying; and

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WHEREAS, it is also vital not to underestimate the toll infertility and pregnancy loss may be taking on couples. Because both infertility and pregnancy loss tend to be relatively invisible events in our culture, it is easy to minimize their emotional impact; and

WHEREAS, this problem is often viewed as an unfortunate, but minor, nonevent by those outside the family largely because they fail to understand the emotional investment parents put into their unborn children, in some cases even before that child is conceived; and

WHEREAS, families who suffer this tragedy need sensitive caregivers, understanding friends and supportive family members; and

WHEREAS, the tragedies suffered by couples dealing with infertility and pregnancy loss are of extreme significance to the elected leaders of this state, and it is incumbent upon this legislative body to make all Tennesseans more aware of the struggles these people face; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby designate October, 2001 as "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.